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THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Twenty-sixth State Legislature
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State of Hawai'i

February 3, 2012

RE: H.B. 1778; RELATING TO UNAUTHORIZED COMPUTER ACCESS.

Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, submits the following testimony in support of House Bill 1778.

The purpose of H.B. 1778 is to increase the penalties for unauthorized computer access, and raise the monetary threshold for Unauthorized Computer Access in the First Degree when that charge is based solely on the value of information obtained.

All of us are familiar with the widespread and far-reaching effects that unauthorized computer access can have on our society. In 2010, a computer security breach of the University of Hawaii parking garage system affected more than 53,000 people, potentially exposing approximately 41,000 social security numbers and 200 credit card numbers to misuse. Across the country, even larger organizations, such as Sony Playstation Group, Citigroup, the United States Senate, the C.I.A. website, and the Arizona State government, have found themselves similarly compromised.

As society becomes increasingly reliant on the Internet for the storage and transfer of our most valuable and confidential information, it becomes increasingly tempting for would-be "hackers" to access our computer networks and information systems without authorization. Moreover, growing Internet connectivity and the proliferation of mobile devices such as tablets and smartphones--combined with the modern ease of creating or obtaining malware--make it possible for practically anyone, anywhere, to engage in online criminal activity at anytime.

We also know that organized criminal groups are increasingly turning to the Internet to commit crimes. They have figured out that the Internet provides anonymity, making it difficult

for law enforcement to trace or attribute activity to a particular suspect; they also know that there are a lot of rich targets on the Internet.

Stricter penalties for unauthorized computer access will not only present a stronger deterrent for unauthorized computer access, but also emphasize to the public and would-be offenders that these types of activities simply will not be tolerated.

For all of the reasons noted above, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu strongly supports H.B. 1778. Thank for you the opportunity to testify on this matter.